

Factions Fight Over Platform Of Socialists

Hillquit - Berger Machine Accused by Left Leaders With Using Steam-Roller Methods in Convention

Clash Is Expected To-day

Repeal of Espionage Act and One Union Demanded; Debs Sure To Be Nominee

(Cancellation of all war loans by the United States, provided all other belligerents in the European war take similar action, is demanded in a tentative platform submitted to the Socialist convention yesterday by a committee headed by Morris Hillquit. Adoption of the platform is regarded as certain, the only opposition coming from those who believe it to be too conservative. It was on the question of the tentative platform, or declaration of principles and program, that the schism between the right and left wings of the party developed when the convention assembled in Finnish Socialist Hall, 127th Street and Fifth Avenue. With Mr. Hillquit on the committee which prepared the draft were Joseph E. Baker, of Pennsylvania; Victor L. Berger, of Wisconsin; James O'Neal, of New York; and Gustave Hoehn, of Missouri.

Left Element Dissatisfied

The proposed program and declaration did not suit the left element, consisting principally of delegates from Illinois, headed by Walter Kruse and John Engdahl, and from Queens and Kings, headed by Benjamin Glassberg and Moses Oppenheimer. The lefts, made up of Bolshevik, quasi-Bolshevik and how-to elements, bitterly assailed the platform proposed by the Hillquit contingent as yellow and lacking in revolutionary spirit. They were particularly anxious to include in the platform "some of the latest" in Socialist theory, including "the dictatorship of the proletariat" and sovietism.

Ably supported by the gallery, apparently filled with Communists, and having the sympathy of Irwin St. John Tucker, of Chicago, chairman for the day, they assailed viciously the documents presented by the Hillquit contingent.

The lefts intimidated the Hillquit-Berger machine, as they vaguely styled it, was seeking to steam-roller its platform through the convention. Kruse moved that the platform and declaration of principles be referred back to a new committee for revision. Justice Panken, of the Municipal Court, moved that it be considered by the entire convention sitting at the Finnish Socialist Hall, where the convention reassembled this morning. After much acrimonious debate Justice Panken's motion was carried, and the adoption of the Hillquit platform and declaration by the convention.

Favors One Big Union

The tentative platform submitted by Mr. Hillquit included recommendations to the trade unions for the adoption of the one big union idea. The report favored "the closest cooperation of all unions as one organized working class party."

Under their great struggle for emancipation," says the platform, "the working classes of America must present to their masters one solid front, industrial as well as politically."

Under the heading of "foreign relations" the program demands:

"Cancellation of all war loans by the United States; extension of the largest possible credits in food, raw materials and machinery to the stricken nations of Europe; dissolution of the league of nations as constituted in the covenant embodied in the present treaty, and the creation of an international parliament of democratically elected representatives of all nations in the world; recognition of and trade with Soviet Russia; recognition of the independence of Ireland, and the withdrawal of government protection and property abroad."

Under the heading "political" it was recommended that the party demand repeal of the espionage law and other repressive legislation; discontinuance of all espionage prosecutions under the espionage law and release of all political prisoners; repeal of the arbitrary power to deport aliens under administrative order; abolition of the power of the courts to enjoin workers from striking and of the application of the injunction in labor disputes; election and recall of Federal judges; direct popular election and recall of the President and Vice-President of the United States; equal and unrestricted suffrage in fact as well as in law, and a constitutional amendment to remove all obstacles to industrial and social reform and reconstruction, including the aims of the Socialist party.

The demands included the socialization of basic industries and enforcement by Congress of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution, insuring the vote with full civil, political, industrial and social rights, to the negro in the South.

Assailing the Republican and Democratic parties as representing the so-called capitalist interests of the country, the platform declares:

"America is now at the parting of the roads. If the outraging of political liberty and concentration of economic power into the hands of the few is permitted to go on, it can have only one consequence, the reduction of the country to a state of capitalist despotism."

"The Socialist party sounds the warning. It calls upon the people to defeat both old parties at the polls and to elect the candidates of the Socialist party, to the end of restoring political democracy and bringing about complete industrial freedom."

The reference to the international relations of the Socialist party in the declaration of principles presented by the Hillquit committee, which failed to include any statement of the party's sympathy for the Third International or any indication that the party stands ready to affiliate permanently with the organization fathered by Nikolai Lenin, was one of the things which apparently provoked the ire of the lefts.

The reference objected to by the lefts, involving the issue of the Third International on one side and the Invisible Empire, painted in lurid colors by Martin Littleton, one of the attorneys for the state in the expulsion proceedings against the five Socialist Assemblymen at Albany, was couched in the following terms:

"The Socialist movement is a world struggle in behalf of civilization. The Socialist party of the United States cooperates with similar parties in other countries and extends to them its full support in their struggles, confident that class-conscious workers all over the world will eventually secure the powers of government in their respective countries, abolish the oppression of international capitalism and establish a federation of Socialist republics, cooperating with each other for the benefit of the human race and for the maintenance of the peace of the world."

Clash Expected To-day

Discussion of the platform, when it is resumed this morning, is expected to provoke a violent clash between the right and the left. The latter, although defeated yesterday, will return to the fight this morning and will make its stand, among other things, upon the doctrines of Lenin and Trotsky.

A committee of five of the convention, consisting of Mr. Hillquit, Seymour Steadman, Freda Rogan, Otto Branstetter, secretary of the Socialist party, and George E. Roemer, will confer Friday with Attorney General Palmer and Secretary of War Baker, to present a memorial to these officials for amnesty for all political prisoners and conscientious objectors.

The committee will also see Secretary Tumulty at the White House and request him to transmit a copy of the memorial to the President. The convention will adjourn Thursday afternoon, to reconvene in Washington Saturday morning, for the purpose of making a demonstration in support of the committee's demand. A large mass meeting will be held in Washington Saturday night.

Announcement of this program was greeted with wild cheers and received unanimous approval.

It was definitely decided that Convict 2253, who is doing a ten-year term in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., should be the Socialist nominee for President when the slate is made up Thursday.

The man who bears the number is Eugene V. Debs, of Terre Haute, Ind., thrice candidate of the Socialist party for President. His sentence is for violation of the espionage act. His nomination will be unanimous.

Nomination of the candidate for Vice-President is expected to provoke a contest. Those mentioned for the nomination are Seymour Steadman, of Chicago; Kate Richards O'Hare, now imprisoned at Jefferson City, Mo., for anti-war activity; and Scott Nearing, of New York.

A strong movement for the nomination of James H. Maurer developed yesterday. Maurer is president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor and wrested control of the federation in that state from the Gompers machine. His home is in Reading. The State Department recently denied him permission to go to Europe on state business. Maurer will be nominated by James O'Neal, of New York, and will be strongly supported by both New York and Pennsylvania delegates.

Objection to the nomination of Miss O'Hare was voiced vociferously yesterday by Joseph D. Cannon, of New York, the league in that state. It had met with success, he said, in eliminating middlemen's profits and would have been still more successful but for the opposition of powerful financial interests.

"A flour mill was purchased by the State Industrial Commission as an experiment," he said. "The mill put out only 125 barrels a day, but at that rate it will save approximately \$10,000 by the end of this year. It has paid 12 cents a bushel more for wheat than the other mills and elevators which are privately owned, and it has sold its flour 50 cents a barrel cheaper. Work was started Monday on a state-owned mill at Grand Forks, which will have a capacity of 3,000 barrels daily and an elevator storage capacity of 1,500,000 bushels."

J. A. H. Hopkins, national chairman of the Committee of Forty-eight, who presided, attacked the Cummins bill in his opening address, and said the arrangement to permit railroads to earn 5 1/2 per cent on their valuation was robbery of the public.

Melinda Alexander, of Montana, recommended the audience that it cost a lot of money to rent Carnegie Hall, and asked for liberal contributions. Cash and pledges for about \$1,000 were obtained. Among the gifts announced were \$25 from Dudley Field Malone, \$25 from Mrs. Willard Straight and \$25 from "six Columbia professors."

Governor Lynn J. Frazier, the Non-partisan League executive of North Dakota, told of the achievements of

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